

JOHN MARSHALL HOUSE (FIRST BRICK IN ILLINOIS)
SHAWNEETOWN ILLINOIS

Gallatin Co.

HABS NO. 25-3
HABG
ILL,
30-SHAWT,
1

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT NO.25

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
EDGAR E. LUNDEEN - DISTRICT OFFICER
BLOOMINGTON ILLINOIS

The John Marehall House, -- "the First Bank in Illinois."

by Otis Winn, Murphyeboro, Illinois April 1934

John Marshall, son of Samuel and Sarah Scott Marshall was born about 1775 at the Marshall Manor near Belfast, Ireland. He came of a very old and illustrious family; the first available record of which is to a William Marshall, who came over to England in 1066 with the Army of the Norman Conqueror. As the name implies, he was a Marshall in the invading Army. The descendants of William figured prominently in the reign of Henry II and Henry III. The branch of Marshalls of which (our subject) John Marshall descended, came from a John Marshall, who was sent by his Uncle William, Earl of Pembroke and at the time Protector of England and guardian of Henry III, to Ireland as the MARESCHAL of Ireland. This John was a leader of the Irish nobility in their efforts to gain for Ireland the benefits of the Magna Carta. From him descended a Captain John Marshall, who being an Episcopalian apparently for religious reasons, came to America in 1650 and settled at Jamestown, Virginia. From him descended the Virginia Marshalls prominent in early American development.

The Marshalls remaining in Ireland were staunch Presbyterians and it was from them that Samuel Marshall and his sons John (our subject); Samuel K. (lawyer, statesman, soldier and friend of Lincoln) of Shawneetown; and Daniel descended.

About 1800 Samuel Marshall bought the property in Shawneetown, though he never came to America to see or claim it.

In 1804 his sons John, Samuel K., and Daniel came to America and taking over the property purchased by their father settled in Shawneetown. Daniel soon moved to St. Louis.

In 1804 John Marshall married Almira Lush of Vincennes, Indiana. Due to the discontent of his wife with the difficult frontier life, they soon moved to Vincennes, but by the middle of 1807 they returned to Shawneetown.

In 1808 he built the first brick house in Shawneetown, and in fact it was the third recorded brick house built in Illinois and the Mississippi Valley. (The first was built at Kaskaskia, the second at Cahokia in 1806 by Nicholas Jarrot). The Marshall Home was a large two story building facing the Ohio River. It was a remarkable structure for its time and contrasted sharply with the log cabins and crude frame buildings comprising Shawneetown at the time. It was a fitting setting for the prosperous merchant and banker and his devout and gracious wife, who prevailed upon her husband to promote the building of a badly needed church for Shawneetown. Their home soon became the center of social, business and political activities. It was in this building that Marshall had his store, and in which, in 1816, he opened the "First Bank in Illinois," in one of the first floor front rooms. This bank was authorized by the Territorial Legislature at Kaskaskia, but because the Territory of Illinois did

not back the bank, it issued its own certificates. In 1823 and '24 the bank suspended operations. In 1835 it was reopened but soon after the panic of 1837 it could not meet the demands of its creditors and was finally forced into liquidation in 1843.

A legend has it that money was lowered into a well in the basement in iron buckets, and a guard slept on a trap door covering the well. No evidence could be found to substantiate this idea.

The present owner and occupant is Cecil L. Hughes. Her mother, Mary Lintzenich, bought the property sixty years ago.

The Ohio River, which this building faces, often went beyond its banks. The levee was therefore built, the height of which was increased in 1929-30. Due to this increased height the entrance was changed and a porch added on the levee side.

The original building had a hall on the south side with two rooms on each floor entered from this hall. The exterior brickwork is unusually colorful and attractive, ranging from light salmon pink to a deep red, with many black headers.

References: "History of Gallatin, Saline, Hamilton, Franklin and Williamson Counties." Illinois 1887.

"History of Southern Illinois" Vol 1. Pages 124-126

"Brief Biographies of Figurines in the Illinois State Historical Library." Page 24.

References: "Letter of Samuel Marshall Wright of Spring-
field, Illinois to Mrs. Harriet Hayden Hayes
of Chicago, Illinois--Date Dec. 14, 1933."
"Journal of the Illinois State Historical
Society" Vol. 22 Page 164.

Atas' Winn,

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(Approved) Eugene E. Lunden

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.